

In the Specification:

Please rewrite the first full paragraph on page 2 as follows:

This application relates and claims priority for all purposes to pending U.S. application serial no. 60/280232, filed March 30, 2001, and related U.S. applications entitled Free Space Optical Switch, application serial no. 10/075,946, and Method and Apparatus for Beam Deflection, application serial no. 10/075,950, filed on even date herewith and commonly assigned.

On page 12, please amend the first full paragraph as follows:

Referring now to Figs. 3-7, there is illustrated the general layout of a preferred embodiment of the invention. Fig. [3] 3A depicts a sectional view showing a two axis optical beam steering apparatus 5 in the general form of a ball and socket assembly. It is comprised of a movable member 10 in the form of a spherical or ball portion having an outer bearing surface 11 supported in a fixed member 40 that includes a spherical raceway or socket 20 for forming a seat in which the movable member 10 is movably supported for rotation with respect thereto. The fixed member 40 in the present example comprises a thin flat plate but may have other configurations. As shown in Fig. [3] 3A, the movable member 10 [~~and~~] is received within the fixed member 40 [~~each~~], which includes a first side 6 and opposing second side 8. The fixed member 40 is configured to provide free access to the movable member 10 [~~on each of~~] on the first side 6 of the fixed member 40 and through the opening 72 in the second side 8 of the fixed member 40.

On page 15, please amend the second full paragraph as follows:

By controlling the currents in each of the four coils, three fundamental conditions can then result. In a first condition, current drivers may provide a clamping force across the air gap 73. The ~~[claiming]~~ clamping force is applied by driving all four coils to provide a force substantially toward a center aperture 72 of the stator element 70 such that the magnetic element 50 is attracted toward the aperture 72 and the attached movable member 10 is draw by a greater force into the bearing seat 20. A clamping force is also provided when little or no current is applied to the coils 60 because as stated above, a traction force between the magnetic element 50 and the stator 70 is provided even without current in the coils 60.